

HB 5992

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

**March 8, 2013
Angela Benson
HB 5992**

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Angela Benson and I thank you for letting me speak about HB 5992.

I am totally against this bill especially the second part. The patient not only should have the right to have choice in their course of treatment, but who is included in their treatment. For a provider to be able to contact family members – or whomever- for discharge planning without that person's consent is a violation of the Healthcare Information Portability and Accountability Act. This is a federal law that protects the privacy of the individual. That law applies to all of us.

People with psychiatric disabilities are in a protected class- and should also be protected from this bill-which does not apply to any other illness or disease. We deserve the same amount of dignity and respect as everyone else.